

# **WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE DRAFT**

**WISHA Services**

**Department of Labor and Industries**

## **27.25**

# **Operating Dump Trucks In Reverse**

**Date: May 12, 2004**

### **I. Background**

For the past several years the department has been engaged in a rulemaking effort to improve the safety regulations for employees exposed to motor vehicle traffic on construction worksites. The department has worked with business and labor to develop a proposed rule that will improve the safety for employees exposed to motor vehicles.

During the rule development the following statistics were reviewed to provide guidance and focus for the rulemaking effort. Between 1998 and 2003 there were seventeen fatalities in highway construction workzones. Of the seventeen fatalities, dump trucks were involved in eight of the fatalities and of those eight, six were the result of an employee being backed over by the dump truck. In each of the fatalities involving a dump truck backing over an employee, the dump truck was equipped with an operating backup alarm.

Based on the above statistics, the department, with input from stakeholders, made the decision to adopt an emergency rule that will be effective May 12, 2004. The emergency rule, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-155-610 (2)(f) is contained in Attachment #1 of this WRD.

The department will continue the work on a permanent rule to provide greater protections to employees.

### **II. Scope and Application**

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD) provides guidance to WISHA enforcement and consultation staff initiating inspections on construction sites where dump trucks are operating. It replaces all other instructions on this issue, whether formal or informal.

### **III. Compliance and Consultation Protocols**

A serious citation will be issued only if the CSHO observes or documents that an employee was in the backing zone as described in WAC 296-155-610(2)(f)(ii) [see Attachment #1], while a dump truck was backing up and the driver failed to use an observer or an operable mechanical device that provides a full view behind the dump truck. If the employee was protected from the backing dump truck by a physical barrier such as a jersey barrier, heavy equipment such as a paving machine, or a concrete curb at least 6 inches high as described in the exemption, then a citation would not be issued.

No citation will be issued solely because there was a potential for an employee to enter the backing zone.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan K. McMurdie, Acting Senior Program Manager  
WISHA Policy & Technical Services

For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648, Olympia, WA 98504-4648 -- or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).

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### Attachment 1

- *An observer can be any individual at the construction site, except a person performing the duties of a flagger, and must:*
- *Be in direct line-of-sight or able to communicate with the driver.*
  - *Be able to see the entire backing zone.*
  - *Continue to provide direction to the driver until the driver reaches the destination and stops OR there are no longer employees in the backing zone and it is reasonable to expect that no employee(s) will enter the backing zone.*

#### *(f) Operating dump trucks in reverse.*

*Before backing a dump truck the driver must determine that no one is currently in the backing zone and it is reasonable to expect that no employee(s) will enter the backing zone while operating the dump truck in reverse.*

*If employee(s) are in the backing zone or it is reasonable to expect that an employee(s) will enter the backing zone you must:*

*Make sure the truck is backed up only when:*

#### *(i) The vehicle has an operable automatic reverse signal alarm:*

- *Audible above the surrounding noise level,*  
*and*
- *Audible no less than fifteen feet from the rear of the vehicle.*

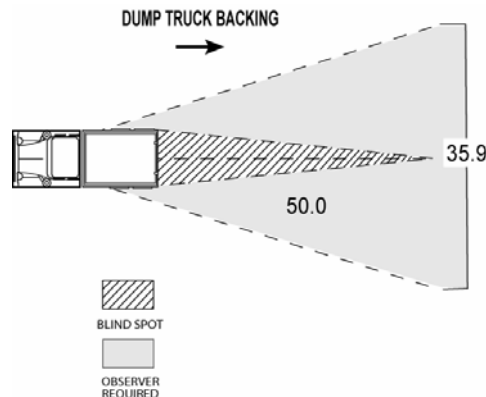
*and*

#### *(ii) You must make sure that:*

- *An observer signals that it is safe to backup*  
*or*
- *An operable mechanical device which provides the driver a full view behind the dump truck.*

#### **Note:**

*The backing zone is defined by the following diagram. Distances are reported in feet.*



#### **Exemption:**

- *Employees are considered protected when they are on the opposite side of a fixed barrier such as:*
- *A jersey barrier*
  - *Heavy equipment (such as a paving machine)*  
*or*
  - *A six (6) inch concrete curb.*